

**To:** Representative Hughes, Chair, and Members of House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

**From:** Linda Deneen

**RE:** HB 4782 and 4783

**Date:** September 6, 2017

The technology that has heralded the advent of the eBike, like most technologies, carries with it both positives and negatives depending on the users and the usage. In a short time, the popularity of eBike usage has made significant growth. We believe that guidelines need to be in place that not encourage and nurture this expansion of access, but also foster and support the environment and promote healthy lifestyles

As this technology has progressed, regarding capacity, style and function of eBikes, we are supportive of TART's draft position on eBikes for the local trail system in this community-based effort more clearly defining eBike usage. It is important to note that TART's trail system was purchased and constructed by local contributors; local control over the use of the trails is essential. TART Trails, Inc. recognizes eBikes requiring active pedaling as a compatible means to enjoy and utilize multiuse trails with equal access.

We also applaud the efforts of this committee on behalf of eBike users in our state by supporting HB 4782 and 4783 for the most part. However, Class 2 cycles are really motorized vehicles because active pedaling is not needed for propulsion.

As cyclists ourselves, we are well aware of cycling operational safety and etiquette issues, rules and regulations, rights and responsibilities. We are glad that eBike riders are subject to the same requirements that apply to individuals riding a bicycle.

How does this impact me? Prior to purchasing my eBike, I met with TART's Director to ensure my compliance with any directives, regulations, etc. regarding using eBikes on the TART system. Even without relying on the Americans with Disabilities Act, I was pleased to know I would be welcomed on the trails.

What joy this has brought me! Being able to ride again and participate with friends and family in a beloved sport with my pedal assisted eBike has returned to me a huge part of my life I believed was gone forever.

# Draft

## TART Trails

### Ebike Position

#### **TART Trails, Inc. Mission**

Enriching the Traverse region by providing a network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways; and encouraging their use.

#### **Core Values**

We believe in...

- Outdoor recreation – Get outside and exercise. Experience wildlife, enjoy the natural environment, breathe fresh air and have fun.
- Making connections – To nature, to work, to school, to people, to places, to ourselves- now and forever.
- Sustainable transportation – Empower individuals and decision makers to make choices that benefit personal and community economics and the environment.
- Equitable access – Always open and safe for everyone.
- Improving health – Active transportation and outdoor recreation improves community health and personal well-being.

#### **Long-Term Vision**

Happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system.

The whole region will be connected by world-class trails, bikeways, and pedestrian-friendly streets linking people to the beauty of the Traverse area year round. Platinum Bicycle-Friendly, the Traverse area will be known for its natural surroundings, active, healthy outdoor lifestyles, and vibrant town centers where everyone has sustainable transportation options. We will be a world-renowned outdoor recreation and four-season destination.

#### **Ebike Position**

TART Trails, Inc. recognizes ebikes requiring active pedaling as a compatible means to enjoying and utilizing multiuse trails. It is our position that ebikes requiring active pedaling have equal access to multiuse trails as they align with TART Trails' Mission, Core Values, and Long-Term Vision.

TART Trails recognizes ebikes are suitable for use multiuse trails given the following:

1. Active pedaling of Ebike is required
2. Similar to all other trail uses, control, safe speeds, vigilance is maintained at all times
3. Stops signs and trail rules are followed at all times
4. Slower and safe speeds are used for navigation of blind curves, narrow sections, areas of congestion, walkers, joggers, children in strollers, pets on leash, rollerbladers and bicyclists.